

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of measuring memory and learning capabilities of a small animal, comprising the steps of:

measuring successively by an infrared ray detector a position of the small animal in an observation field, while a computer controls opening of a plurality of covers, provided between the observation field holding the small animal therein and a feed holder storing feed therein, in a predetermined order each for a unit period, and

calculating by the computer the number of accessing times, during each unit period, of the small animal to respective through holes formed on the observation field, which is to be opened/closed with the covers, on the basis of an output from the infrared ray detector.

2. A method of measuring memory and learning capabilities of a small animal, comprising the steps of:

measuring a position of the small animal in an observation field successively by an infrared ray detector, while a computer controls water supply through a plurality of nozzles, inserted into the observation field holding the small animal therein, each in a predetermined order, and

calculating by the computer the number of accessing times, during each unit period, of the small animal to each nozzle on the basis of an output from the infrared ray detector.

3. A method of measuring memory and learning capabilities of a small animal, comprising the steps of:

measuring a position of the small animal in an observation field successively by an infrared ray detector, while a computer controls opening of a

plurality of covers, provided between the observation field holding the small animal therein and a feed holder storing feed therein, in a predetermined order each for a unit period and controls water supply through a plurality of nozzles, inserted into the observation field holding the small animal therein, each in a predetermined order each for a unit period, and

calculating by the computer the number of accessing times, during each unit period, of the small animal to each nozzle and respective through holes formed on the observation field, which is to be opened/closed with the covers, on the basis of an output from the infrared ray detector.